



Promoting Justice for Latinos

December 2, 2004

ANNUAL AWARDS GALA

Sheraton New York Hotel & Towers

Tuesday, November 9, 2004

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Cesar A. Perales

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Chairman Michael Powell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

RE: WC Docket No. 03-133

Dear Chairman Powell:

This past summer the FCC rightfully set aside its consideration of new charges and fees on enhanced pre-paid calling cards after hearing loudly from civil rights leaders and thousands of consumers in the minority community. Unfortunately, we understand that a proposal to raise the cost of these cards is once again before the FCC. We urge the Commission not to raise the costs of pre-paid cards as they will place an undue burden on Latinos and low-income communities.

The Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund promotes and protects the civil rights of Puerto Ricans and the wider Latino community. PRLDEF also works to attain the full civic participation, engagement and empowerment of our community. We oppose any increase in the cost of pre-paid calling cards because it would disconnect many in our community from their families, their jobs, and their civic duties.

There is no doubt that Latinos value these cards, with over 40% of Latino households regularly using pre-paid cards. For some it is convenience, for others its affordability, and for still others these cards take the place of home phones and cell phones that are too expensive to own. In fact, for the poorest in our community, over 50% of households with income under \$20,000 have used these cards.

Prepaid calling cards are a cost effective way to make long distance and international calls. Indeed, affordable calling cards are critically important for many Latinos given that many of them are recent immigrants who regularly call their family nationwide and around the world.

PUERTO RICAN LEGAL DEFENSE
AND EDUCATION FUND

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The FCC must not ignore the financial needs of calling card users by making them unaffordable. We ask the Commission to put aside once again any consideration of price hikes on pre-paid calling cards. It's the right thing to do.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Cesar A. Perales".

Cesar A. Perales

President and General Counsel

ccs: Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy
Commissioner Kevin Martin
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein